Database on economic variables

2580. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the increased complexity and openness of the economy, there is a need for a sound database on key economic variables as our WPI does not cover services; and

(b) if so, the plans Government have to strengthen our economic data collection and analysis system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) Yes Sir, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is taking initiative to include the Service Sector in the Wholesale Price Index.

(b) Strengthening of economic data collection and analysis system, in view of the structural changes that take place in the country, is a continuous process. The Central Statistical Organisation, The National Sample Survey Organisation, The Reserve Bank of India, The Ministry of Finance and various other line Ministries in the Central and State Governments regularly collect, compile, analyse and maintain relevant database on key economic variables. The same are regularly published/ disseminated and also put in the concerned Ministry's website for use.

Separate consumer price index (CPI)

2581. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to define separate Consumer Price Index (CPI) for urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to compile Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers separately for urban and rural sectors. Weighting diagrams for these two new series of CPI numbers will be based on the consumer expenditure data collected in the Consumer Expenditure Survey 2004-05 by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). However, as the collection of price data depends upon availability of manpower resources, no time frame for release of the new CPI numbers has been fixed.

(c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.